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05/12/97

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEAttorney Docket No. 69568/105Pre Amdt B  
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JL

10-22-97

In re patent application of

Jeffrey W. EBERHARD et al

Serial No. Unassigned

Filed: May 9, 1997

For: X-RAY COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CT) SYSTEM FOR  
DETECTING THIN OBJECTSPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered into the application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Bl 1. (Amended) A method to [help] ascertain the presence [or absence] of an object in a three-dimensional volume represented by a plurality of voxels, wherein the object is smaller in at least one dimension than a linear dimension of the voxels, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) radiation scanning the three-dimensional volume to determine a property of each of a plurality of voxels representing the three-dimensional volume;

(b) identifying voxels having similar values of said property to identify a contiguous group of voxels having said similar values using a contiguity evaluation process wherein, for a given voxel, voxels in the same plane as the given voxel, and in planes above and below

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